



TORONTO KIDZ  
YOUR GUIDE TO SUMMER CAMP  
2024



# Welcome!

Dear first-time parents and campers,

We're so happy that you chose us for your little one's first camp experience! We value the trust that you are placing in us to take care of your child and we're excited to be part of this significant moment! We know that you have a lot of questions and so we created this guide to provide as much information as possible to support you through this experience. If you still have questions, or would like to discuss any of the topics in more detail, we are only a phone call, email or text away! We're more than happy to walk you through all the details so that you feel prepared and confident once the summer starts!

We can't wait to meet you and your little camper in person soon!

## Brigitte Gallegos

Brigitte Gallegos  
Owner & Camp Director

brigitte@torontokidz.ca  
647-629-2020



## About Us

Our camp was designed with your child and family in mind. We started this camp in 2017 to not only offer a fantastic experience in our vibrant city, but to play a role in shaping the next generation. Our camp offers priceless opportunities for children to socialize, explore and just be kids! Not only do we play, but we take every opportunity to guide, teach, lead and connect with our campers. We truly believe in the individuality of each child and encourage them to explore the best version of themselves and realize what they can achieve.

We include the whole family in our camp experience. As much as this experience is about your child, it's also about you as a parent and caregiver. We want to get to know you and accompany you on the journey of raising amazing kids!

We strive to take the quality of day camps to the next level. At Toronto Kidz, "camper care" guides every decision we make. Read on to learn more about it and what it means to us.



## Field Trips

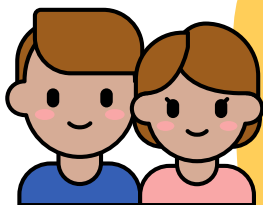
Each week, we take our campers on an exciting field trip by school bus to one of Toronto's top attractions such as the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Ontario Science Centre, Ripley's Aquarium, etc.

Another highlight of camp is our "Park Day" each week which takes us to High Park for the day from most of our camp locations.

Our weekly field trips are a huge highlight of the camp but we realize they can bring up different emotions for everyone. Below, we've captured the different perspectives of parents, campers and staff to help answer some of your questions.



### Parent Perspective



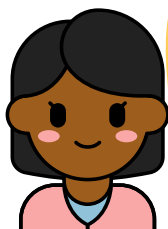
It can be daunting to let your little one go on their first field trip all by themselves. We understand that the field trip can make parents feel nervous. Rest assured, we are fully aware of that and have many safety measures in place. This includes wearing yellow safety vests, counting campers every few minutes, and assigning campers to small groups with staff members. You name it, we've thought of it!

### Camper Perspective

Field trips are incredibly exciting for our campers. The bus ride alone can feel like a big adventure, let alone the fact that they're doing this without their parents, probably for the first time ever! They feel so independent, brave and proud. Feeling like their parents trust them gives them a huge confidence boost and has a positive impact on their development.



### Staff Perspective



Our credo at the camp is always "Safety first! Right before fun, fun and more fun!" We do everything with the safety of our campers in mind. Everyone is fully trained and supported by a system of detailed logistics, advanced planning and strategically placed staff. They are excited to show your child these fantastic places in Toronto in the most fun and safest way possible.

## Here's a list of safety measures that we take on field trip days:

- We hire a professional bus company and drivers.
- Campers wear yellow safety vests with our camp's name and phone number on the back at all times.
- We place staff strategically at bus drop-offs, museum entrances, and other locations.
- We place campers into smaller groups of 4-6 campers per staff member while touring a site. Groups do not separate during the visit.
- We work closely with the museums and sites and they support us greatly during our group visits.

**!** We are always counting campers! Our staff is trained to know at any given time how many campers are in their care.

We sometimes get asked if parents can 'volunteer' on the field trip days. While we appreciate the offered support, we only allow it if your child requires it for medical reasons. We are fully staffed and always stick to a maximum ratio of 1:6 (staff to campers) at our KIDZ CAMP. Often, it's even lower on field trips (1:4 or 1:3). Every aspect of our field trips is planned down to the minute and our staff is trained to know their exact roles and responsibilities. Any interference with that system from outside help can throw things off and prevent our staff from carrying out their duties.



## Splash pads & wading pools

We love taking campers to local splash pads and wading pools. We always change at the camp before and after heading to the park so it's important to pack a simple bathing suit that's easy for your child to put on and take off independently. We also recommend packing a medium-sized towel vs. a big beach towel that's easier to carry. Water shoes and goggles aren't necessary but can certainly be packed if desired.

## Meals

Each camper needs to bring their own lunch and two snacks. We recommend healthy and wholesome foods that will provide a lot of energy throughout our busy camp days.



**All food must be nut-free!**

## Helpful tips to prep your child for camp

While the first camp experience can feel overwhelming for parents and campers alike, we all have the same goal - for your little one to have a fantastic summer that they'll talk about for years to come!

### Here's a few helpful tips to ease them into camp:

- 1 If your child is nervous about their first day of camp, take a moment to scroll through our website with them, showing them our pictures and reviewing the sample schedule. This will help them to picture themselves at the camp and see all the fun things they'll be doing in no time.
- 2 If they're worried that they won't know anyone, you can assure them that there will be plenty of kids there who are just like them and excited to make friends too. Our staff always supports our campers to connect with others and make friends.
- 3 Lastly, if they're ever feeling sad or uncomfortable, they should always tell one of their counsellors. Their counsellor will be their trusted friend and ally. Their main goal is to create a great camp experience for your child no matter what they need.

## Drop-off

It's normal for some campers to be nervous or have separation anxiety on the first day. Based on our experience, easing their nerves can be as simple as explaining to your child how the drop-off process works and letting them ask questions beforehand. This will make them feel like they are part of the process rather than being told what to do. Generally, the drop off flow looks like this:

- Parents line up with their child outside.
- At 9:00 am (or earlier, if you have booked early care) staff opens the doors.
- Each camper and parent is greeted by our Location Manager where they're checked in and told the colour of their group.
- The camper is then taken to their group by one of our staff.
- Each camper has their own box (cubby) with their name on it where they leave all their personal belongings.
- Once in their group, they'll meet their counsellors and new friends, and will start playing an ice-breaker game right away.

Finally, complete the drop-off with one last hug before they step into camp! Try not to prolong this goodbye as it can make your child more reluctant to enter the camp and want to stay with you.



## Camper to staff ratio

Each group at the KIDZ CAMP has 12 campers who will be accompanied throughout the whole week by their two assigned counsellors. In addition, we have other fixed staff on site, such as the Location Manager, Program Coordinators and Camp Assistants. We also have our Camp Directors and Area Managers visiting each of the locations regularly. It's a well-oiled machine that guarantees extra layers of safety and fun for campers.

We take pride in our counsellor to camper ratio of 1:6 which is one of the lowest among day camps in Toronto. Furthermore, we invest in hiring teachers as our Location Managers as they contribute immensely to the success of our camp with their knowledge of camper safety, behaviour management, conflict resolution, and parent communication. Having an on-site manager at each location that is educated in the field of child development and works with children all year round, has always been important to us.



**! All our staff members are trained in first-aid and go through detailed staff training prior to the summer.**

## Our staff

We take immense pride in our staff and the exceptional quality of service they provide to our campers and their families. Our investment and commitment to hiring the most qualified staff shows in the rigorous hiring process including several steps such as multiple interviews, reference checks and police clearance checks. We are very fortunate to receive well over a thousand applications each year which allow us to be very selective and only hire the very best. After being hired, our staff members go through several trainings, online and in-person and complete their first-aid training, police clearance, etc.



## Roles at the camp

**Location Manager** certified teacher

**Counsellors** university students 18+

**Program Coordinator** students 18+

**Camp Assistant** students 17+

**Area Manager / Camp Director**

## Camper Care

Camper Care is behind everything we do at Toronto Kidz! We truly take care of our campers, not only by making them feel welcome and comfortable, but also by ensuring they make a friend and share their experience with their peers. It's also the little things we do like ensuring they eat their food, applying sunscreen, and checking that their water bottle is always filled up that's just as important to us.

Besides being their caretaker for the days at camp, your child's counsellors become their friend, ally and 'older sibling'. They are there to support them in anything they need to have a fantastic camp experience.



## Growth Mindset

We truly believe in the 'Growth Mindset' approach (vs. a closed mindset), which means when our campers believe they 'just can't do something!', we encourage them instead to say 'I can't do it YET...'. We go along on their journey to support them to learn and practice, make mistakes, learn from them, tumble, fall, get up and try again! All this happens in the safe and non-judgmental environment we provide.

## Program & activities

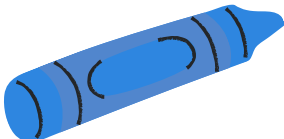
Below you'll see a sample schedule for a week at our camp. We keep campers very busy with a mix of indoor and outdoor activities. Our field trips to attractions and parks generally take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. (Mondays and Fridays are backup days in the event of inclement weather).

On Monday, we communicate the day on which your child will go on their field trip(s) as it depends on the colour group they're in (not all groups go on the same day as we don't want to overwhelm the sites).

**SAMPLE WEEK**  
*Multiactivity Camp*

**Camp hours: 9 am - 4:30 pm**

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	9:00 - 9:30 AM Welcome & morning circle	9:00 - 9:30 AM Morning circle	9:00 - 9:30 AM Morning circle	9:00 - 9:30 AM Morning circle	9:00 - 9:30 AM Morning circle
Indoor play	9:30 - 10:00 AM Indoor play	9:30 AM - 1:00 PM	9:30 AM - 3:00 PM	9:30 - 10:00 AM Indoor play	9:30 - 10:00 AM Indoor play
Outdoor fun	10:10-10:30: SNACK 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Outdoors time	<b>PARK DAY</b>	<b>WEEKLY THEME field trip</b>	10:10-10:30: SNACK 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Outdoors time	10:10-10:30: SNACK 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Outdoors time
Arts & Crafts	12-12:30: LUNCH 12:30 - 1:00 PM Indoor Games	1:00 - 2:00 PM Theme activity		12-12:30: LUNCH 12:30 - 1:00 PM Indoor Games	12-12:30: LUNCH 12:30 - 1:00 PM Indoor Games
Weekly Theme	1:00 - 2:00 PM Arts & Crafts	2:00 - 3:00 PM Arts & Crafts		1:00 - 2:00 PM Arts & Crafts	1:00 - 2:00 PM Arts & Crafts
	2:00 - 3:00 PM Theme activity	3:30 PM: SNACK	3:30 PM: SNACK	2:00 - 3:00 PM Theme activity	2:00 - 3:00 PM Arts & Crafts
	3:30-3:30 PM: SNACK 3:30 - 4:30 PM Outdoor fun!	3:30-3:30 PM: SNACK 3:30 - 4:30 PM Outdoor fun!	3:30-3:30 PM: SNACK 3:30 - 4:30 PM Outdoor fun!	3:30-3:30 PM: SNACK 3:30 - 4:30 PM Outdoor fun!	3:30-3:30 PM: SNACK 3:30 - 4:30 PM End of week party!





## Extended hours

We offer extended hours from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. If you require extra care, you can book those by logging into your account and adding them to your confirmed camp weeks. There are three options:

8:00 am - 9:00 am : \$50/week

8:00 am - 5:30 pm : \$75/week

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm : \$50/week

## Packing list

Each camper will have an assigned box to store all their personal belongings. Please label everything with your child's first name. Provide your child with a well-fitted backpack as we'll be bringing lunches on our field trips and snacks to parks.

**Here are a few other essential items to bring besides lunch and snacks:**



Please apply sunscreen on your child in the morning before drop-off. We'll then reapply it in the afternoon before heading outdoors again.

## What to wear?

We are very active at our camp so please dress your child in comfortable clothes and bring a full change of clothes as well, especially for younger campers.

The summer is almost here and we couldn't be more excited to meet our campers, make new memories and have FUN!  
On behalf of Toronto Kidz, thanks for choosing us!

if you have any additional questions or would like to discuss any of these topics in more detail, we are only a phone call, email or text away! We're more than happy to walk you through all the details as we want you to feel prepared and confident once the summer starts!

Call or email us at:  
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